

Easton School District No. 28
Meeting of the Board of Directors
February 23, 2021

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Board Vice-Chair April Simonson at 5:30 PM.

Attendance: John Jensen, Jen Phillips, April Simonson, Phillip Meehan

Staff: Dawn Bechtholdt, Patrick Dehuff, Marilyn Fudge, Gary Wargo, Josh Johnson, Jenny and Steve Jensen, Freida Ellison, Julie Miller, Jackie Tate, Cece Badda, Tracy Vanlone, Gretchen Jenkins, Marchel Allenbaugh

Board Members Absent: Chris Helgeson will be joining late.

Guests: Dana Meehan, Toni Brenning, Kara Gunderson

Approve Agenda: Superintendent Dehuff requested a change in the agenda. He requested that two additional items be added to the agenda, under executive session. One is an executive session for complaint against a public employee, and the other executive session is for possible litigation, where the district attorney will join the meeting with the Board. Jen Phillips made a motion to approve the agenda with these two additions. April Simonson seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Board Minutes: Phillip Meehan made a motion to approve the February 9, 2021 minutes. John Jensen seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Communication to the Board: None

Public Comment: None

Reports:

Financial Report: Freida Ellison discussed the enrollment report with the Board. Ms. Ellison informed the board that February is a short month and she will present the budget status report at the Board meeting in March.

Consent Agenda: Jen Phillips made a motion to approve the consent agenda. John Jensen seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Staff Report: Tracy Vanlone, our math teacher for grades 7-12, shared results and comments from a staff survey of the secondary teachers regarding the extension of the school day for grades 7-12. In the survey results, there were some safety concerns mentioned but the overall message was that it would be best to bring our secondary students back to full days, provided social distancing and safety measures for students and staff were maintained. Gary Wargo, Dawn Bechtholdt and two secondary staff members will meet in March to work on a plan to extend the

school day to full days for grades 7-12.

Jenny Jensen speaking on behalf of the kitchen, mentioned that Food Service Director, Jackie Tate, and supervisors during lunchtime rocked the lunch for the elementary students. Marchel Allenbaugh spoke for the elementary staff. It is the first week of four full days for the younger students. We saw some students who had been remote all year. All of the students seemed excited to be back to full days.

Student Report: The Associated Student Body (ASB) has decided to use some of the existing funds in ASB to go towards decorating the school. Fun carpets, masks, etc. have been put in place to help reenergize the students.

Principal Report: Principal Bechtholdt was pleased on how smoothly the lunch for elementary went. 37 elementary students ate lunch and everything went well. The flow pattern worked out well for the transitioning of students everywhere from classes to PE and music, to recess, and to lunch. Dawn Bechtholdt mentioned that the class of 2021 are all in the classes that they need to complete and are on track for graduation when these classes are completed.

Superintendent Report: Substitute administrator for Superintendent Dehuff while he is on medical leave is Mr. Gary Wargo. Gary Wargo has been working to familiarize himself with elementary and secondary teachers, and the support staff. Tracy Vanlone and Phillip Derrick worked with Gary Wargo on the interview committee for the science position for the 2021-22 school year. Superintendent Dehuff and Gary Wargo communicate on a regular basis. Dr. Dehuff said that they are working well together and expressed his appreciation to Mr. Wargo for his help during this time.

Board Report: Board Director Phillip Meehan expressed his concern that some parents are not receiving timely responses to their concerns. Phillip Meehan expressed his thoughts about involving parents and keeping them informed and involved in our school. Some ideas were discussed to increase parental involvement including PTA or other parent organization for Easton School. April Simonson said that WSSDA sent out a great guide on holding public meetings under phase 2.

Board Business:

- Student Mentor/Distance Learning Specialist position for remote learning students: Gary Wargo said that there are elementary and secondary students who will remain remote learners as we continue the 2020-21 school year. Mr. Wargo talked about the benefits of this position in providing support for our remote learners and read the job posting to the Board.
- Middle and High School Science Class Teaching Position for the 2021-22 School Year: Mr. Wargo coordinated with Dr. Dehuff to hold interviews for the Middle and High School science position for the 2021-21 school year. Gary Wargo, Tracy Vanlone, Phillip Derrick, and Dawn Bechtholdt interviewed three people for the position. All were good applicants and interviewed well. The number one choice by the interview panel was Lyn Cox, who previously worked at Easton School as our science teacher and would like to

return. Dr. Dehuff recommended to the Board to approve the hiring of Lyn Cox, starting at the beginning of the 2021-22 school year. John Jensen made a motion to hire Lyn Cox as the science teacher, which would begin at the start of the 2021-22 school year. Phillip Meehan seconded the motion and the motion carried.


- Long-term substitute for the Middle and High School science class for the remainder of the 2020-21 school year: Josh Johnson is currently the substitute teacher for Middle and High School science. Josh Johnson said that the students are awesome, and he is happy to be here. John Jensen made a motion to approve the hiring of Josh Johnson as a long-term substitute science teacher until the end of the 2020-21 school year. Phillip Meehan seconded the motion and the motion carried.
- Washington State School Retiree Association grant: Gary Wargo mentioned that a representative from the Washington State School Retiree Association stopped by Easton School last week with information for teachers on grants that can be utilized for supplies or projects in their classrooms. Six staff members applied for the grants, including Steve Eims, Cece Badda, Jessica Lewis, Ofelia Todd, Sydney Kretschman and Becky Houle. We would like to recognize the Washington State School Retiree Association for this grant opportunity, and for our instructional staff who applied for the funding.

Adjourn to Executive Session: The board adjourned the regular meeting to go into two executive sessions. One was to discuss a complaint against a public employee, and the other was to discuss possible litigation with the district attorney. The executive sessions began at 7:15 pm and were estimated to go until 8:15 pm. At 8:15, the executive sessions were extended until 9:00 pm. Chris Helgeson joined the Board meeting at 7:55 pm.

Executive Session Adjourned: Phillip Meehan made a motion to adjourn the executive session and go back into regular session at 9:02 pm. John Jensen seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Regular Meeting Adjourned: Chris Helgeson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:03 pm. Jen Phillips seconded the motion and the motion carried.


Patrick Dehuff
Superintendent


Chris Helgeson
Board Vice Chair

The undersigned hereby certifies that the above is a true and correct copy of the original as the same appears in the records of the Board of Health of the City of New York.

Witness my hand and the seal of the Board of Health of the City of New York, this _____ day of _____, 19____.

Secretary of the Board of Health of the City of New York

Mayor of the City of New York

Comptroller of the City of New York

Recorder of the City of New York

[Signature]

[Signature]